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Agenda item 42

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/63/L.51 and Add.1)*]

63/135. Sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/5 of 3 November 2003, 59/10 of 27 October 2004, its decision to proclaim 2005 the International Year for Sport and Physical Education, to strengthen sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace, and its resolutions 60/1 of 16 September 2005, 60/9 of 3 November 2005, 61/10 of 3 November 2006, and 62/271 of 23 July 2008,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Sport for development and peace: building on the foundations",[1] which reviews the programmes and initiatives implemented by States Members of the United Nations, United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and other partners, using sport as a tool for development and peace,

Recognizing the need to strengthen and further coordinate efforts at the international level to maximize the potential of sport for contributing to the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals,

Acknowledging the major role of Member States and the United Nations system in promoting human development through sport and physical education, through its country programmes,

Acknowledging also the opportunities provided by the Games of the XXIX Olympiad and the XIII Paralympic Games in Beijing for education, understanding, peace, harmony and tolerance among and between peoples and civilizations, as reflected in General Assembly resolution 62/4 of 31 October 2007 on the Olympic Truce,

Recalling article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[2] outlining a child's right to play and leisure, and the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled "A world fit for

[1] A/63/466.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

children",[3] stressing the promotion of physical, mental and emotional health through play and sports,

Recalling also article 30 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[4] outlining the right of persons with disabilities to take part on an equal basis with others in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport,

Recognizing the important role played by the International Convention against Doping in Sport[5] in harmonizing the actions taken by Governments in the fight against doping in sport, which are complementary to those undertaken by the sporting movement under the World Anti-Doping Code,

Acknowledging the recommendations contained in the final report of the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group entitled "Harnessing the power of sport for development and peace: recommendations to Governments", and encouraging Member States to implement the recommendations,

Recognizing the Beijing Declaration on Sport for Development and Peace, calling for a renewed mandate of the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group under the leadership of the United Nations,

Recognizing also the need for indicators and benchmarks based on commonly agreed standards to assist Governments to enable the consolidation of sport in cross-cutting development strategies and the incorporation of sport and physical education in international, regional and national development policies and programmes,

Recognizing further the imperative need to engage women and girls in the practice of sport for development and peace, and in this regard welcomes activities that aim to foster and encourage such initiatives at the global level, such as the 2008 International Federation of Association Football U-20 Women's World Cup, held in Chile,

1. *Welcomes* the Secretary-General's decision to renew the mandate of a Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace and to incorporate the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group into the United Nations system under the leadership of the Special Adviser;

2. *Also welcomes* the establishment of a United Nations Office of Sport for Development and Peace, which constitutes a policy and communications platform that will facilitate partnerships, coordinate common strategies, policy and programmes and increase coherence and synergies, while simultaneously raising awareness within the United Nations system and among external partners;

3. *Invites* Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system, including their governing bodies, international peacekeeping missions, sport-related organizations, athletes, the media, civil society and the private sector to collaborate with the United Nations Office of Sport for Development and Peace to promote greater awareness and action to foster peace and accelerate the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals through sport-based initiatives and promote the integration of sport for development and peace in the development agenda, by working along the following principles, adapted from the United Nations Action

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[3] See resolution S-27/2, annex.

[4] Resolution 61/106, annex I.

[5] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-third Session, Paris, 3–21 October 2005*, vol. 1: *Resolutions*, chap. V, resolution 14.

Plan on Sport for Development and Peace contained in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session:[6]

(*a*) Global framework for sport for development and peace: further develop a framework to strengthen a common vision, define priorities and further raise awareness to promote and mainstream policies on sport for development and peace that are easily replicable;

(*b*) Policy development: promote and support the integration and mainstreaming of sport for development and peace in development programmes and policies;

(*c*) Resource mobilization: promote innovative funding mechanisms and multi-stakeholder arrangements at all levels, on a voluntary basis, including the engagement of sport organizations, civil society, athletes and the private sector;

(*d*) Evidence of impact: promote and facilitate common evaluation and monitoring tools, indicators and benchmarks based on commonly agreed standards;

4. *Encourages* Member States to designate focal points for sport for development and peace within their governments;

5. *Also encourages* Member States to provide institutional structures, appropriate quality standards and competencies and promote academic research and expertise in the field to enable ongoing training, capacity-building and education of physical education teachers, coaches and community leaders in sport for development and peace programmes;

6. *Encourages* the use of sport as a vehicle to foster development and strengthen education for children and young persons; prevent disease and promote health; empower girls and women; foster the inclusion and well-being of persons with disabilities; and facilitate social inclusion, conflict prevention and peacebuilding;

7. *Also encourages* the use of mass sport events to promote and support sport for development and peace initiatives;

8. *Invites* Member States and international sport organizations to assist developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in their capacity-building efforts in sport and physical education, by providing national experiences and best practices as well as financial, technical and logistic resources for the development of sport programmes;

9. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying and acceding to the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[2] the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[4] and the International Convention against Doping in Sport;[5]

10. *Invites* the international community to provide voluntary contributions to and to enter into innovative partnerships with the United Nations Office of Sport for Development and Peace and the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including progress made by Member States towards implementation of the Sport for

[6] See A/61/373.

Development and Peace International Working Group policy recommendations and on the functioning of the United Nations Office of Sport for Development and Peace and the Trust Fund for Sport for Development and Peace, and to present an action plan on sport for development and peace.

68th plenary meeting
11 December 2008